

**Holy Trinity Lutheran
Church
Worship Guide**

Service of Holy Communion



November 15, 2020

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

PRELUDE Finlandia Jean Sibelius
Donna Gulliksen and Barbara Selland

CHILDREN'S SERMON Erin Osterhout

GREETINGS FROM WELCA PRESIDENT Marga Conn

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: **we confess that we are not awake for you.**

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through + Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

+HYMN Father, We Praise You

1 Father, we praise you, now the night is over,
active and watchful, standing now before you;
singing, we offer prayer and meditation;
thus we adore you.

2 Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions;
banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
bring us to heaven, where your saints united
joy without ending.

SALUTATION Ellen Crane

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11****Ruth Ann Greiner**

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the

one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?' ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

SERMON What Should We DO?

QUIET TIME FOR REFLECTION & PRAYER

Gentle Shepherd

Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,
For we need you to help us find our way.
Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us,
For we need Your strength from day to day.
There's no other we can turn to
Who can help us face another day;
Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,
For we need You to help us find our way.

+THE APOSTLES CREED

Shannon Leifken

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

+ EXCHANGE OF PEACE:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you

(Please wave to your nearest worship neighbors)

OFFERING PRAYER

(Offering baskets will not be passed around. At the conclusion of the service, please place your offering in designated baskets in the rear of the sanctuary.)

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *"In the night in which he was betrayed..."*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(At the invitation of the pastor, please open your communion kit and consume the host and grape juice)

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of
your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.

C: Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

+ SENDING Take My Life, That I May Be

- 1 Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

Music Director: Chad Flynn **Video:** Don Gulliksen

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God from the ladies of WELCA.

Special thanks to our women's group (WELCA) for participating our worship service today. The women continue to be a tremendous blessing to our congregation and to various charities near and far.

Some things you should know....

- In many ways, our sanctuary set-up and physical-distancing protocols exceed CDC guidelines for safe public gatherings
- The air blowers which heat the sanctuary are turned off at least thirty minutes prior to worship and are never re-activated so as to avoid spraying breath aerosol into the environment when people are in the sanctuary
- -We are currently reaching approximately 200 people on Sundays and throughout the week with our YouTube streamed worship services. Viewers are connecting with us from several states, including, Texas, Florida, Tennessee, and the Carolinas
- Weekly Sunday School lessons are posted on our church's web page in addition to the weekly children's sermons
- Thermal-insulated curtains have been installed in one of our meeting rooms to save on energy costs.
- **All liturgical wording for our worship bulletins is obtained from the national office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

Thank a veteran today! This past week we joined our nation in honoring the brave and loyal veterans who have protected and served our country over the years. We remain grateful for your loyalty in keeping America safe.

Congratulations to Emily Shields who will become an adult member of the congregation through her Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) ceremony, slated for Saturday, November 21. Due to COVID restrictions, the ceremony will include only the immediate family.

Help us to reach souls on the internet. Could you please help us to defray the cost of the production hardware? Each gift you designate toward this project will be matched, dollar-for-dollar by a generous individual contributor. (See today's bulletin flyer). Simply include "tech

project" on your check memo, or make a designated gift on our website: www.rockawaylutheran.org.

An Important Congregation Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 11/15 immediately following our worship service. The meeting will be offered for in-person attendees as well as for those desiring to join us via ZOOM conference. All ZOOM attendees will have full voice and vote privileges. As with any other congregation meeting, one must be a confirmed, rostered member to cast a vote, and no proxy votes will be permitted. The chief substance of the meeting will be the adoption of the proposed 2021 budget and election of Council members.

The WELCA Annual Christmas Bazaar has been cancelled for this year due to the COVID pandemic. Please (a) do not drop off donated items to the church to be sold at a later date and (b) please consider making a generous financial donation to WELCA in lieu of the bazaar, so that WELCA's beautiful ministries to the community may continue to be financially supported. Thank you for your generosity and prayerful support.

Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be held on November 18th. Join us at noon...bring a bag lunch. Physical distancing and facial coverings will be mandatory. For those unable or uncomfortable attending in person, the Bible study will be live streamed through the ZOOM format. Please contact Pastor Jack about the ZOOM link.

Potholders are still offered for sale by our women's group. These sturdy potholders are only \$10 for a set of two. Great Christmas gift idea. To purchase contact Joan Cosgrove or Ellen Crane.

Sock Drive: We are extending our collection of NEW socks until November 22nd. Please place them in the box in our open front entrance.

Clothing Donations: Please place in the RED BIN in the rear parking lot of the church. Also taking shoes, handbags, stuffed toys, and linens!

Readers are needed for Sunday mornings. Please consider signing up to read on Sunday mornings. The readings will be sent to you before Sunday so you will have plenty time to read over. It's an easy way to serve the church. Your help is much appreciated.

Thank you for all your generous financial support to the ministries of Holy Trinity, especially during our COVID-19 building shut down. The ministries continued, even when our building was closed, thanks to your gifts.

Want to give electronically? 40% of our offerings now come in via electronic giving sources. To learn more, simply go to our web page at

www.rockawaylutheran.org and click on the “donate” button. . . then follow the simple instructions. Still not sure? Please contact Donna Gulliksen at: Donna.Gulliksen@gmail.com or call her at 973-697-1895. Regular offerings (with date and frequency of your choice) as well as one-time gifts can be established electronically. All transactions are confidential.

Biblical Advice for Living in “End Times”



From St. Paul:

- Stay Spiritually Sharp (1 Thessalonians 5:6)
- Encourage One Another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

From Jesus:

- Make the Most of Your God Given Talents
(Mt. 25:14-30)

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Application Question: How is the Lord calling me to do these things?

Eight-Part Sermon Series



“Heavenly Reflections”

Join Pastor Jack as he explores the assigned ELCA Scripture texts which outline the Biblical concepts of Heaven, The Second Coming of Christ, Judgment Day, and our call to serve the Lord in anticipation of the end-times. Each sermon will be presented in the form of a question.

- 11/1 – “What is Heavenly Paradise?”
- 11/8 - “Now...or Later?”
- 11/15 - “What Should We DO?”
- 11/22- “What About Judgment Day?”
- 11/29- “How Can WE Remain Strong?”
- 12/6- “What’s He Waiting For?”
- 12/13- “HOW Can We Be Faithful?”
- 12/20- “What Does It All Mean for Us?”



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

***Purpose Statement
of the
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America***

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Mission Statement

To mobilize women to act boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ.

WHAT DOES THE LOGO MEAN?

The logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).